

In the Claims

Claim 1 (previously presented): A multi-query data visualization process comprising:

inputting a plurality of query objects into a data processing device;

identifying features within each of the plurality of query objects that allow comparison to items of a body of data stored in a database;

determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the items of the body of data; and

displaying points along a plurality of rays, wherein a position of each of the displayed points corresponds to the determined relative relationship between each respective one of the plurality of query objects and the body of data, wherein a ray is provided for each query object, and wherein displaying includes displaying a point representing a specific one of the items at a first position along one of the rays, which position indicates a determined relative relationship between the item and the ray's query object, and displaying a second point representing the same specific item at a second position along another one of the rays, which second position indicates a determined relative relationship between the item and the second ray's query object.

Claim 2 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein displaying includes placing a small graphic entity at an end of each of the plurality of rays to represent a respective one of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 3 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein displaying includes locating the plurality of rays to have a common origin.

Claim 4 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein displaying includes locating the plurality of rays to radiate outwardly from the common origin at equally-spaced angles from one another.

Claim 5 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein displaying includes locating the plurality of rays to have a common origin and further comprising determining a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 6 (original): The process of claim 5, further comprising adjusting the critical distance in response to user input.

Claim 7 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising:
re-determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to user input; and
rearranging the positions of the displayed points in response to re-determining.

Claim 8 (original): The process of claim 1, further comprising:
deleting an element from the body of data in response to user input;
re-determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to deleting; and
rearranging the positions of the displayed points in response to re-determining.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein determining comprises accessing data corresponding to the occurrence of textual information within a plurality of documents and displaying comprises depicting usage of the textual information within the documents corresponding to portions of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
organizing data in the database and the plurality of query objects in an n-dimensional space; and

reducing a number n of dimensions in which the data in the database and the plurality of query objects are organized to two dimensions using a Sammon projection.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein identifying comprises representing each of the plurality of query objects and each datum in the body of data as an n-dimensional vector in an n-dimensional vector space.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 11, wherein determining comprises calculating a similarity measure between each of the plurality of query objects and each datum of the body of data using some portion of the n-dimensional vectors.

Claim 13 (original): The process of claim 12, wherein determining further comprises:

reducing a number n of dimensions in which the body of data and the query objects are represented to three or fewer dimensions using a multi-dimensional scaling method,

where the similarity measures between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data are weighted more heavily than the similarity measures among data within the body of data; and

wherein displaying comprises displaying points corresponding to the plurality of query objects and points corresponding to the body of data according to the three or fewer dimensions.

Claim 14 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein displaying further comprises displaying points corresponding to data from the database along each of the plurality of rays in a two dimensional display, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 15 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
determining thematic boundaries within each element contained in the database;
breaking elements into subelements at the determined thematic boundaries;
determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and

displaying points corresponding to the subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 16 (original): The process of claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
breaking elements into subelements;
determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and
displaying points corresponding to the subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A data visualization apparatus comprising:
an image device configured to provide a visual image;
and digital processing circuitry coupled with the image device and configured to:
input a plurality of query objects;
identify features within each of the plurality of query objects that allow comparison to items of a body of data stored in a database;
determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and items of the body of data; and
control the image device to depict points corresponding to data from the database along each of a plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships, wherein a ray is provided for each query object, and wherein displaying includes displaying a point representing a specific one of the items at a first position along one of the rays, which position indicates a determined relative relationship between the item and the ray's query object, and displaying a second point representing the same specific item at a second position along another one of the rays, which second position indicates a determined relative relationship between the item and

the second ray's query object.

Claim 18 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display includes digital processing circuitry configured to display a small graphic entity at an end of each of the plurality of rays to represent a respective one of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 19 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display includes digital processing circuitry configured to display the plurality of rays to have a common origin.

Claim 20 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 19, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display includes digital processing circuitry configured to display the plurality of rays to radiate outwardly from the common origin at equally-spaced angles from one another.

Claim 21 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display includes digital processing circuitry configured to display the plurality of rays to have a common origin and further comprising digital processing circuitry configured to determine a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 22 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 21, wherein the digital processing circuitry is further configured to adjust the critical distance in response to user input.

Claim 23 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry is further configured to:

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to user input; and

control the image device to rearrange positions of the displayed points in response to the re-determined relationship.

Claim 24 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry is further configured to:

delete an element from the body of data in response to user input;

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to deleting; and

control the image device to rearrange the positions of the displayed points in response to re-determining.

Claim 25 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine comprises digital processing circuitry configured to access data corresponding to the occurrence of textual information within a plurality of documents and the digital processing circuitry configured to control the image device comprises digital processing circuitry configured to depict usage of the textual information corresponding to portions of the query objects appearing within the documents via the image device.

Claim 26 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine comprises digital processing circuitry configured to:

organize data in the database and the plurality of query objects in an n-dimensional space; and

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the data in the database and the plurality of query objects are organized to two dimensions using a Sammon projection.

Claim 27 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to identify comprises digital processing circuitry configured to represent each of the plurality of query objects and each datum in the body of data as an n-dimensional vector in an n-dimensional vector space.

Claim 28 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 27, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine comprises digital processing circuitry configured to calculate a similarity measure between each of the plurality of query objects and each datum of the body of data using some portion of the n-dimensional vectors.

Claim 29 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 28, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine further comprises digital processing circuitry configured to:

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the body of data and the query objects are represented to three or fewer dimensions using a multi-dimensional scaling method, where the similarity measures between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data are weighted more heavily than the similarity measures among data within the body of data; and

wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display comprises digital processing circuitry configured to display points corresponding to the plurality of query objects and points corresponding to the body of data according to the three or fewer dimensions.

Claim 30 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to control the image device comprises digital processing circuitry configured to control the image device to display points corresponding to data from the database along each of the plurality of rays in two dimensions, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 31 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine relative relationships comprises digital processing circuitry configured to:

- determine thematic boundaries within each element contained in the database;
- break elements into subelements at the determined thematic boundaries; and
- determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to control the image device to display points comprises digital processing circuitry configured to display points corresponding to subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 32 (original): The data visualization apparatus of claim 17, wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to determine relative relationships comprises digital processing circuitry configured to:

- break elements into subelements; and
- determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to control the image device to display points comprises digital processing circuitry configured to display points corresponding to subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium comprising computer usable code configured to cause digital processing circuitry to:

identify features of each of a plurality of query objects that allow comparison to a body of data stored in a database;

determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data; and

control an image device to depict points corresponding to data from the database along each of a plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display at least a majority of the plurality of rays to have a common origin.

Claim 34 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display a small graphic entity at an end of each of the plurality of rays to represent a respective one of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously presented): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display the plurality of rays to radiate outwardly from the common origin at equally-spaced angles from one another.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, and further comprising computer usable code configured to determine a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 38 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 37, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to adjust the critical distance in response to user input.

Claim 39 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to:

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to user input; and

control the image device to rearrange the positions of the displayed points in response to the re-determined relationships.

Claim 40 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 39, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to:

delete an element from the body of data in response to user input;

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to deleting; and

control the image device to rearrange the positions of the displayed points in response to re-determining.

Claim 41 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to access data corresponding to the occurrence of textual information within a plurality of documents and the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to depict usage of the textual information within the documents that correspond to portions of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 42 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

organize data in the database and the plurality of query objects in an n-dimensional space; and

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the data in the database and the plurality of query objects are organized to two dimensions using a Sammon projection.

Claim 43 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to identify comprises computer usable code configured to represent each of the plurality of query objects and

each datum in the body of data as an n-dimensional vector in an n-dimensional vector space.

Claim 44 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 43, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to calculate a similarity measure between each of the plurality of query objects and each datum of the body of data using some portion of the n-dimensional vectors.

Claim 45 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 44, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine further comprises computer usable code configured to:

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the body of data and the query objects are represented to three or fewer dimensions using a multi-dimensional scaling method, where the similarity measures between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data are weighted more heavily than the similarity measures among data within the body of data; and

wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display comprises digital processing circuitry configured to display points corresponding to the plurality of query objects and points corresponding to the body of data according to the three or fewer dimensions.

Claim 46 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to control the image device to display points corresponding to data from the database along each of the plurality of rays in two dimensions, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 47 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

- determine thematic boundaries within each element contained in the database;
- break elements into subelements at the determined thematic boundaries; and
- determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to display points corresponding to subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 48 (original): The computer readable medium comprising computer usable code of claim 33, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

- break elements into subelements; and

determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subelements; and wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to display points corresponding to subelements along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 49 (previously presented): A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium comprising computer usable code configured to:

input a plurality of query objects into a data processing device;

determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and a body of data stored in a database; and

control an image device to depict points corresponding to data from the database along each of a plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display the plurality of rays to have a common origin, and wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display the plurality of rays as radiating outwardly from the common origin at equally-spaced angles from one another.

Claim 50 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display a small graphic entity at an end of each of the plurality of rays to represent a respective one of the plurality of query objects.

Claims 51-52 (canceled).

Claim 53 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to display includes computer usable code configured to display the plurality of rays to have a common origin, and further comprising computer usable code configured to determine a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 54 (original): The signal according to claim 53, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to adjust the critical distance in response to user input.

Claim 55 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to:

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to user input; and

control the image device to rearrange the positions of the displayed points in response to the re-determined relative relationships.

Claim 56 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code is further configured to:

delete an element from the body of data in response to user input;

re-determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data in response to deletion; and

control the image device to rearrange the positions of the displayed points in response to re-determining.

Claim 57 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to access data corresponding to the occurrence of textual information within a plurality of documents and the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to depict usage of the textual information within the documents that correspond to portions of the plurality of query objects.

Claim 58 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

organize data in the database and the plurality of query objects in an n-dimensional space; and

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the data in the database and the plurality of query objects are organized to two dimensions using a Sammon projection.

Claim 59 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to control the image device to display points corresponding to data from the database along each of the plurality of rays in two dimensions, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 60 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

- determine thematic boundaries within each document contained in the database;
- break documents into subdocuments at the determined thematic boundaries; and
- determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subdocuments; and wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to display points corresponding to subdocuments along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 61 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to:

- break documents into subdocuments; and
- determine relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and the subdocuments; and wherein the computer usable code configured to control the image device comprises computer usable code configured to display points corresponding to subdocuments along each of the plurality of rays, wherein positions of the displayed points

correspond to the relative relationships.

Claim 62 (original): The signal according to claim 49, wherein the computer usable code configured to identify comprises computer usable code configured to represent each of the plurality of query objects and each datum in the body of data as an n-dimensional vector in an n-dimensional vector space.

Claim 63 (original): The signal according to claim 62, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine comprises computer usable code configured to calculate a similarity measure between each of the plurality of query objects and each datum of the body of data using some portion of the n-dimensional vectors.

Claim 64 (original): The signal according to claim 63, wherein the computer usable code configured to determine further comprises computer usable code configured to:

reduce a number n of dimensions in which the body of data and the query objects are represented to three or fewer dimensions using a multi-dimensional scaling method, where the similarity measures between each of the plurality of query objects and the body of data are weighted more heavily than the similarity measures among data within the body of data; and

wherein the digital processing circuitry configured to display comprises digital processing circuitry configured to display points corresponding to the plurality of query objects and points corresponding to the body of data according to the three or fewer dimensions.

Claim 65 (current amended): A data visualization process comprising:

inputting a plurality of query objects into a data processor;

determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and a body of data;

displaying a point along each of a plurality of rays for each of the plurality of query objects, wherein positions of the displayed points correspond to the relative relationships between a respective one of the plurality of query objects and the body of data, wherein displaying includes placing a small graphic entity at an end of each of the plurality of rays to represent a respective one of the plurality of query objects, wherein displaying comprises displaying the plurality of rays to have a common origin and to radiate outwardly from the common origin at equally-spaced angles from one another; and

determining a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 66 (canceled)

Claim 67 (original): The data visualization process of claim 65, wherein determining relative relationships comprises determining relative relationships between each of the plurality of query objects and a body of data stored in a database in the data processor.

Claim 68 (original): The data visualization process of claim 65, further comprising redetermining relative relationships in response to user input criteria.

Claims 69-70 (canceled)

Claim 71 (previously presented): The process of claim 65, further comprising determining a critical distance from the common origin, wherein points on the plurality of rays falling within the critical distance meet or exceed a relevancy threshold and points on the plurality of rays outside the critical distance do not meet the relevancy threshold.

Claim 72 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the inputting comprises inputting the query objects via at least one user interface by at least one user.

Claim 73 (new): The process of claim 1, further comprising associating the points representing the same specific item and positioned along the different rays with one another.

Claim 74 (new): The process of claim 73, wherein the associating comprises displaying a line coupled with the points.

Claim 75 (new): The process of claim 1, wherein the displaying comprises simultaneously displaying the points representing the same specific item.